

AGN. NO. _____

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS YVONNE B. BURKE
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January 17, 2006

Women's Health: 2006 – The Year of Prevention

The most serious threat to the health of women is chronic disease, and low-income women of color are disproportionately affected. Lack of insurance, poverty, language, cultural and other access issues keep many women from utilizing the health care system, increasing their long-term risks. In Los Angeles County, chronic diseases such as heart disease, diabetes and cancer account for 86% of the total disease burden for women of all ages. Chronic diseases impact quality of life and substantially increase the cost of providing healthcare. The largest portion of healthcare resources is still spent on the diagnosis and treatment of chronic disease while only a very small amount is spent on prevention efforts.

As health care costs continue to rise at an alarming rate, strategies for prevention are increasingly important to address the very serious human, social and economic consequences of chronic illness.

Prevention includes raising awareness, providing health education, screenings and strategies to promote a healthy lifestyle and environment. Prevention is an important way we can improve health and wellness in Los Angeles County.

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Many health issues are preventable or can be effectively managed with routine lifestyle changes, screenings, early diagnosis, and treatment.

Studies show that women tend to make the family health care decisions and, yet often leave their own needs unattended. It is critical to encourage women's participation in preventive health activities.

WE THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS: Declare 2006 as "Women's Health: The Year of Prevention," and instruct County departments to encourage employees to have regular health screenings and adopt healthy lifestyles, drawing attention each month of the year to prevention activities; to promote the County's 211 referral hotline; and to work with the Office of Women's Health to promote the "Year of Prevention" and their 1-800-793-8090 multi-lingual Prevention hotline for low-income women.

SCREENINGS SAVES LIVES!

PREVENTION MATTERS!

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